Ramnagar, Nowshera, Kalakot, Surankot, Mendhar and Billawar Tehsil of Jammu Province under the Okaf Act, 1978;

(e) whether Government propose to appoint Wakf Committees to manage Wakf Properties in Tehsils in which no Wakf Committee has so far been appointed; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Complaints against Chairman OKAF, RESI, J and K

3510. SHRI SHABBIR AHMED SALARIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any complaints of corruption and nepotism against the Chairman Okaf, Reasi (J and K);

(b) if so, what action is being taken in the matter;

(c) whether there are some complaints against members of Wakf Committee Basohli that they are not worthy of being members of the Committee, if so, the action taken against members; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rehabilitation of disabled persons

3511. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of physically disabled persons to the total population of the country, with rural, urban breakup;

(b) the details of the schemes formulated for the rehabilitation of disabled persons;

(c) whether they have been provided with special employment benefits to enable them to live a dignified life; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) According to the National Sample Survery Organisation Survey Report (1981) 1.8 per cent of the total population suffer from visual, speech, hearing and locomotor disabilities. 81 per cent of the handicapped are in rural areas and 19 per cent in urban areas. This does not include incidence of mental retardation.

(b) to (d) A Statement is laid on Table of the House. (*See* below).

STATEMENT

The primary responsibility for the welfare and upliftment of the handicapped rests with the State Governments. However, in its coordinating and pace-setting role, the Centre has been assisting the State Governments as well as the voluntary organisations in programmes designed for rehabilitation of the handicapped. The Central Government has set up the following 4 National Institutes as apex level organisations in their respective areas of disability:—

(1) National Institute for the Visually handicapped, Dehradun.

(2) National Institute for the Orthopaedically handicapped, Calcutta.

(3) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay.

(4) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secundrabad.

In addition to these the following two institutions have been set up primarily as service institutions for providing general services to the handicapped persons.

(1) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

(2) National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Oletpur, Orissa.

2. The Central Government is implementing the following major programmes for the education and rehabilitation of the handicapped:—

Scheme of Assistance to Organisations for the Disabled Persons

Under this Scheme, grant-in-aid is provided to the organisations working for the welfare of disabled persons which provide education, training and rehabilitation facilities to disabled persons.

Assistance under the scheme is provided for developing services for (i) detection, intervention of primary natures, prevention of disability, (ii) education and/or training (iii) Rehabilitation-physical, Psychological, social and economic.

Scheme of Assistance to Disabled for purchase/fitting of Aid/Appliances

Under this scheme grants are given to voluntary organisations for providing aids and appliances whose value ranges between Rs. 25 and Rs. 3600 to disabled persons (i) free of cost if their income is less than Rs. 1200 per month and (ii) at 50 per cent cost income the income ranges between Rs. 1201 to Rs. 2700 per month. This scheme is implemented through voluntary agencies spread all over the country.

Under the Scheme, aids and appliances are provided to the visually handicapped, hearing handicapped and orthopaedically handicapped.

Integrated Education of Children

The scheme provides for 100 per cent assistance from Central Government to the State Government/UT Administrations for Education of the Handicapped Children in common schools.

District Rehabilitation Centres

The scheme of District Rehabilitation Centres was launched on a pilot basis. Through these centres, efforts are made to provide comprehensive and coordinated services, including vocational rehabilitation, to the disabled population in the rural areas. So far 12 District Rehabilitation Centres have been sanctioned out of which 11 have already been set up.

Employment

3 per cent vacancies have been reserved for physically handicapped—1 per cent each for the visual, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped in civi posts in Group C and D in Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings. The handicapped are also given age concession in the upper age limit and relaxation in the medical standards for entry into Government services.

(ii) 23 Special Employment Exchanges and 56 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped, in getting gainful employment. Besides, the normal employment exchanges also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.

(iv) Self-employment is promoted through the following:—

(a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and petty shops;

(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks under Differential rate of Interest Scheme.

(c) Allotment of public telephone booths.

(d) Reservation in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc.

During the last 3 years, the following physically handicapped persons including blind were placed in Employment by Employment Exchanges;

	Employment provided
1988	5475
1989	3949
1990	3936

Special Recruitment Drive for the Handicapped

Government have launched special recruitment drive in 1987, 1988 and 1990 and approximately 1000 hearing handicapped and visually handicapped persons have been given placement in Central Government Offices, Central Public Undertakings and Banks etc.

The special drive is intended to clear the backlog of vacancies reserved for the handicapped.

Amendment in Divorce Law

3512. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports of pathetic plight of women suffering from epilepsy as brought out by the noted commentator and analyst Neelam Mathews in the Hindustan Times of 30th May, 1992;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is a sizable number of women who have been divorced on account of legal provisions to that effect; and

(c) whether the matter will be examined as a social issue and the law on divorce suitably amended?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Committees Boards under the Ministry of Welfare

3513. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the various Committees/Boards at various levels and in the various public sector organisations under the Ministry in which non-official members from the public are nominated or elected to represent various interests;

(b) how many of these Committees/Boards have been constituted and the names and addresses of the members on each of these committees;

(c) what is the present tenure of each of the committees that have been constituted; and

(d) by when the other committees which have not been constituted, are likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* Appendix CLXIV, Annexure No. 57).

Helpage home for the aged persons

3514. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:

SHRI J. S. RAJU:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to open "Helpage" homes for the aged persons; and